

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,327 to Hunter ("Hunter").¹ As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is improper because the present application was filed November 29, 2001 and the publication date of Hunter is October 2, 2001.

By this amendment, Applicant cancels claims 4-6 and 16, without prejudice or disclaimer, amends claims 1-3, 7-15, 17, and 18, and adds claims 19 and 20. With entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 7-15, and 17-20 are currently pending.

A. Rejections

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of claims 4-6 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicant submits the grounds for this rejection are rendered moot by the proposed cancellation of claims 4-6 and 16.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-15, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for at least the reason that Hunter fails to disclose every claim element. For example, independent claim 1 recites, among other things:

[a]n electronic appliance, comprising:
a re-writable memory section for recording
**information regarding owning rights and
certifications given by a predetermined public
organization; . . .**

¹ The Office Action contains statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

wherein, if the information recorded in the re-writable memory section is renewed or a **sales condition** recorded in the re-writable memory section is changed, the control section selects the appropriate current data to be output in accordance with the **sales condition**.
(emphasis added)

Hunter fails to disclose at least these elements of claim 1. The Examiner alleges that Hunter “clearly discloses the . . . functions as claimed by the Applicant,” but does not identify a single element of Hunter that reads on the claimed invention. See Office Action, page 3. Moreover, Hunter is directed to “expert support system software that enables inventors to adequately disclose (communicate) the characteristics of their inventions to their technology manager and research sponsor, as well as to their patent professional (i.e., patent attorney or patent agent).” Col. 2, lines 43-47. An inventor’s disclosures of an invention does not constitute “*information regarding owning rights and certifications given by a predetermined public organization*,” as recited in claim 1.

In addition, Hunter does not disclose “a **sales condition** recorded in [a] re-writable memory section” and a “control section [that] selects the appropriate current data to be output in accordance with the sales condition,” as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 1, and claims 2, 3, and 7-13, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, should be withdrawn.

Amended claim 14, although of different scope, contains elements corresponding to the elements of claim 1 discussed above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 14, and claims 15-18, which depend directly from claim 14, should be withdrawn for at least reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1.

B. New claims 19 and 20

New independent claim 19 recites, in part:

[a]n electronic appliance, comprising:
a re-writable memory section for recording
**information regarding patent rights associated
with the electronic appliance; . . .**

wherein the control section selects the
appropriate current data to be output in accordance
with a **sales condition** recorded in the re-writable
memory section.
(emphasis added)

New claim 19, although of different scope, contains elements similar to the elements of claims 1 and 14 discussed above. Furthermore, claim 20 depends from and adds additional features to independent claim 19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion

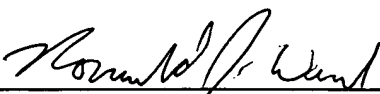
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extension of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 17, 2005

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